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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 103
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Alcoa High School football team for winning the 2000 TSSAA Class 2A State Championship in the inaugural Blue Cross Bowl.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the state of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Alcoa High School Tornadoes achieved unmatched success during the 2000 season by winning the state football championship in Class 2A; they became the first champions of the Blue Cross Bowl in their division of competition and finished the year with a record of fifteen wins and no losses; and

WHEREAS, Coach Scott Meadows and his team inherited a long tradition of excellence in the Alcoa football program; they lived up to that history and ensured that the 2000 edition of the Tornadoes will be a team of legend; and

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WHEREAS, the Tornadoes opened the season with a hard-fought 14-7 win over rival Maryville; the outcome of that game was guaranteed by a heroic goalline stand by the Alcoa defense in the game's final minutes; and

WHEREAS, having shown remarkable grit and determination in the opening game, the Alcoa High School football team proceeded to dismantle one opponent after another as they completed the regular season with an unblemished record; and

WHEREAS, the Alcoa squad carried their momentum into the state playoffs and disposed of each challenger in order to reach the Blue Cross Bowl in Murfreesboro on December 1, 2000; and

WHEREAS, on the artificial turf of Floyd Stadium at MTSU, the Tornadoes used their blazing speed to race to a 27-0 halftime lead over the vaunted, top-ranked Golden Tornadoes of Union City, who had previously allowed a total of just ninety-four points during an undefeated season; and

WHEREAS, Alcoa's formidable lead was challenged in the game's second half by a resurgent Union City squad; as the game's final minutes slipped away, Union City had narrowed the gap to 27-20; and

WHEREAS, the Tornadoes found themselves backed up to their own goal line with just seconds remaining in the game; on fourth down and goal from the three yard line, Mario McElrath took an option pitch and barreled toward the end zone; and

WHEREAS, only feet away from possible victory, the 215-pound running back met a roadblock consisting of David Hill and Daniel Pierce; the powerful back and "Mr. Football" selection had gained more than 2,000 yards for the season, but he could not advance the final, all-important yard; and

WHEREAS, the Lions achieved their remarkable success by utilizing an extraordinary combination of powerful offense, stifling defense, and explosive special teams, to go with their unrivalled speed, tough defense, and unquestionable heart; and

WHEREAS, the offense was led by quarterback Michael George, Blount County Player of the Year, who utilized an array of weapons to fuel the Tornadoes overpowering offensive unit; fellow All-State Team Member Ben Love and his teammates on Alcoa's mighty offensive line cleared the way for the team's running backs and provided ample protection for George to pass for 2,037 yards and twenty-one touchdowns on the season; and

WHEREAS, opposing offenses repeatedly ground to a halt in the face of Alcoa's formidable defense; All-State players Gregory Martin, Tremayne Garner, and Daniel Pierce led a front seven that dominated the line of scrimmage and shut down opposing running games, while All-State player Jonathan Meschendorf and his fellow defensive backs controlled the airways and stalled any of the opposition's attempts at establishing a passing attack; and

WHEREAS, the Tornadoes employed a special teams unit that provided a significant advantage; All-State punter David Hill repeatedly removed his team from poor field position and bestowed that unwelcome situation upon opposing teams, and All-State return man, James Rainier, was always a threat to turn the tide of a game at any time; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Scott Meadows and his assistant coaches laid the groundwork for the 15-0 championship season by sharing their substantial knowledge of football with the young men on the team; Principal Kevin Smith and Athletic Director Rob Daugherty contributed significantly to the team's success by providing their fullest support to the football program; and

WHEREAS, the football players at Alcoa High School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the gridiron while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; they inspired the student body and united the entire Alcoa community in completing their triumphal run through the 2000 season; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship football season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the Alcoa Tornadoes for winning the 2000 TSSAA Class 2A state football championship, and for serving as examples of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this Body joins the school's administration, faculty, students, and the community of Alcoa in congratulating the coaches and players of the Alcoa High School football team upon their championship season, and wish them every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.